

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on February 13, 2003 is acknowledged. Applicants request reexamination of the above-mentioned application in view of the above amendments and remarks which follow.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out the subject matter regarded as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the phrase "in consideration of the number and material thereof..." Applicants have removed this phrase from the rejected claim and now submit the rejection is traversed.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over UK Patent Application 2,303,258. The Examiner maintains that the '258 application "discloses the claimed electrical component for circuit board mounting." Furthermore, the Examiner states: "[i]t is noted that the size and cross-sectional area of the bolt pins and the material selection is deemed a matter of obvious design choice." In addition, the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,141,445 to Little. Applicants respectfully disagree with both of the rejections.

With respect first to the rejection made by the Examiner in claim 1, Applicants do not believe the '258 application discloses all of the limitations set forth therein. The invention of Applicants is generally directed toward an electrical component including a housing electrically connected to a circuit board in two ways. The housing includes surface mount solder connections to join the housing to the surface of the circuit board and also bolt pins that are received by bolt holes located within the circuit board.

Applicants amended claim 1 in order to clarify this understanding. Specifically, claim 1 now claims an electrical component, including a connector housing having a plurality of surface mount solder connections that electrically connect the housing to the surface of the circuit board. Claim 1 also recites that the housing includes bolt pins for engaging bolt holes in the circuit board. Consequently, the housing is electrically

connected to the circuit board in two ways. Applicants submit the '258 application does not disclose this feature.

The '258 application discloses an electrical connector comprising a housing with a plurality of pins and terminals extending therefrom, which are inserted into a receiving member. Nothing in the '258 application teaches the surface connection utilized in the invention of the Applicants. Further, the '258 application teaches away from using two types of connections stating the following on page 2, lines 20-25: "[t]he advantages achieved by the invention are in particular that, by virtue of integrally forming the solder or press-in pins on the housing preferably manufactured as an injection-moulded part, there is no need for an additional component for establishing the electrical connection of the housing to the printed circuit board." Consequently, the invention disclosed in the '258 application does not teach all of the limitations set forth in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, as claims 2-8 ultimately depend from claim 1, Applicants also submit that these claims are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 9, the Examiner asserts that the patent granted to Little teaches the method set forth therein and clearly anticipates the claim. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

Claim 9 recites a method of automatically providing circuit boards with electric circuit board components, wherein the components include a housing and a circuit board. The claim requires the housing include surface mount solder connections and a plurality of solderable bolt pins, all of which are located on the bottom side of the housing. The method of claim 9 includes the step of passing the circuit board along, with the housing, through an SMD soldering furnace which succeeds in soldering both the surface mount connections and the bolt pins to the circuit board. Applicants assert that this step is not taught by the disclosure of Little.

The Little patent is entitled "Surface Mounted Electrical Connector" and discloses a female connector designed for mounting on a printed circuit board (PCB). The connector includes contacts having a straight arm portion and a "V" shaped end portion. The valley of the "V" shaped end portion is the portion of the contact that makes the

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electrical connection with the printed circuit board. Little does not disclose the inclusion of any members that extend through the PCB in order to secure the electrical connection between the PCB and the connector. Therefore, Applicants assert Little does not disclose all of the limitations set forth in claim 9, and consequently, Applicants believe claim 9 to be in condition for allowance.

An earnest attempt has been made to respond fully and completely to the Examiner's remarks and comments in the Office Action dated February 13, 2003. Applicants believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance as the rejections of the Examiner have been traversed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request passage to issuance of the present application.

If necessary to affect a timely response, please consider this paper a request for an extension of time, and charge any shortages in fees, or apply any overpayment credits, to Baker & Daniels' Deposit Account No. 02-0387 (72262.80013). However, please do not include the payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,



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June 13, 2003

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